

What is Geography?

Geography is an old area of study. It goes back to early Greece. The Greeks wrote about the natural world. They noted where things were on the earth. The word *geography* comes from Greeks. It means, "Earth description".

Geographers today describe the earth. They describe the size of landmasses. The study of the seas. They collect data on climates. They watch plant and animal life. They also look for connections. Connections mean a lot to them. In fact, connections are foremost in their studies. They try to connect people with the earth.

Geographers look at people and the earth in four ways. First they think about the location. Location means where people and places are. Location tells exactly where something is. It also tells if something is near or far.

Second, they study relationships. They see how places affect people's lives. They figure out why people and things are where they are.

Third, they look at movement. They note how goods and people go from place to place.

Finally, they look at regions. These are areas with names. Regions are named for governments. They are for languages. They may be named for religious groups. They are sometimes named for ethnic groups. They made also be named for landforms or climate.

Maps and globes are the geographer's tools. Census counts and land surveys are tools too. So are photos and satellites. They tell about remote places.

Geographers study many things. They study climate. They examine land. They look at population. They study economics. They note how one thing affects another. They try to see how people and the earth fit together.